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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
AID-05 /071 W
---------- 093898 /70
R 221438Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9611
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY VOTE HIGHLIGHTS PCP TIE TO MOSCOW

REF: LISBON 8599 (DTG 141546Z DEC 76)

SUMMARY: THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PASSED A MOTION PROTESTING THE LACK OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES DEMONSTRATED BY THE SOVIET-CHILEAN PRISONER EXCHANGE. THE MOTION, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE COMMUNIST, HIGHLIGHTED CONTINUED PCP LOYALTY TO MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

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1. ASSEMBLY PROTESTS SOVIET AND CHILEAN CONDITIONS: THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEC 21 PASSED A MOTION WELCOMING THE FREEDOM OF CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LUIS CORVALAN AND SOVIET DISSIDENT VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY. THE PSD PRESENTED THE MOTION, AND WAS SUPPORTED BY THE PS, CDS, AND UDP. THE PCP ABSTAINED. THE

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ASSEMBLY MOTION:
-- PROTESTED THE DETENTION OF CORVALAN AND BUKOVSKY FOR ALLEGED CRIMES OF ASSOCIATION AND OPINION;
-- CONSIDERED THE INCRIMINATION AND DETENTION INADMISSIBLE DUE TO THE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED RIGHT TO EXERCISE INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LIBERTIES;
-- CONDEMNED THE EXILE OF CORVALAN AND BUKOVSKY FOR FORCING MEN PEACEFULLY STRIVING FOR IDEAS THEY BELIEVE TO BE JUST TO MAKE THE INTOLERABLE CHOICE BETWEEN PRISON AND EXILE.

2. COMMUNISTS EMBARRASSED: PCP PARLIAMENTARY LEADER CARLOS BRITO, IN AN EFFORT TO JUSTIFY THE PCP ABSTENTION, CLAIMED THAT:
-- ALL FACTS WERE NOT CLEAR IN THE BUKOVSKY AND CORVALAN CASES;
-- THE ASSEMBLY MOTION WAS NOT A PROPER DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THOSE IN FAVOR OR OPPOSED INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES.

3. PS AND PSD RUB IT IN: PS AND PSD DEPUTIES, HOWEVER, ACCENTUATED PCP EMBARRASSMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:
-- RUI MACHETE (PSD): THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES DID NOT HESITATE TO CONDEMN THE CORVALAN-BUKOVSKY EXCHANGE.
-- JAIME GAMA (PS): "WHAT IS AT STAKE IS THE POSITION OF THE PARTIES IN THE ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE LIBERTY OF PRIVATE CITIZENS AND REGARDING OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POLITICAL TOTALITARIANISM. ALL PARTIES SHOULD ASSUME A POSITION IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY AND IN FAVOR OF THE ABOLITION OF ALL FORMS OF DICTATORSHIP. WHAT IS AT STAKE IS THE DEPENDENCE OR INDEPENDENCE OF THE PCP FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THE PCP IS INCAPABLE OF THE SAME INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION WHICH OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE DEMONSTRATED.

4. COMMENT: THE SOCIALISTS, WITH A BOOST FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, CAPITALIZED ON THE ASSEMBLY MOTION TO KEEP THE PCP ON THE DEFENSIVE. THE ACTIONS BY THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTIES POINT UP PCP FAILURE TO ACCEPT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS (REFTEL).
CARLUCCI

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